

## Rumrill, Nancy

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**From:** FOIA Exemption 6  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 06, 2014 3:02 PM  
**To:** Rumrill, Nancy  
**Subject:** Class III Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area Permit for Florence Copper, Inc.

Florence Copper does not cover the ramifications of their enterprise in the literature they distribute to the public. I took it upon myself to do a bit of exploring what their public relations people were including in their commentaries. I did a little research and compiled the actual magnitude of what they propose to do. As an afterthought, I am still wondering where they are going to get all the water they will need to run the operation.

Walter Skurda

This is my letter to the editor:

Mark Cowling, Editor  
Florence Reminder & Blade-Tribune  
Email: [editor@florencereminder.com](mailto:editor@florencereminder.com)

Mr. Cowling,

Without data you are just a person with an opinion

My first letter to the editor brought a response from a neighbor. "What kind of experience do you have to make comments about the in situ copper mine?" Okay, fair question; I am a certified Journeyman designer of manufacturing tooling and equipment; spent several decades writing training materials and producing industrial motion pictures that showed somebody's next door neighbors wife how to make precision computer components; my background in research and development is extensive. I am somebody that gets paid to read between the lines.

For example, as I read the copper mine literature, I noticed how casually they talk about the injecting the mildly acid induced water into the ground; as if they were watering a potted petunia with a sprinkling can. Forget the image of the sprinkler for a moment and replace it with another image.

The in situ copper operation plans on injecting eleven thousand (11,000) gallons of water and acid mixture into the earth **every minute**.

I have been playing with number crunching; went on the internet and looked up a kid's 12 foot diameter swimming pool. I found one with a picture of kids swimming around in it; 30 inches high. That makes calculating whatever really simple. The pool holds 1900 gallons of water when filled to the brim. The copper pumps will force five and three-quarters pools full of liquid into the ground every minute; now, multiply this by sixty to get an hours' worth, or three hundred and forty-seven pools full every hour. Imagine the kid's pool as a twelve foot diameter pipe and for one hour of pumping the pipe

needs to be eight hundred and thirty-five feet tall; it continually pumps every hour, twenty-fours each day, seven days a week. Over twenty-four hours that means the twelve foot diameter pipe would be over three and three-quarters of a mile high. Get the picture?

So that meager amount of sulfuric acid they talk about so off-the-cuff in their literature and marketing materials means the fifteen million, eight-hundred and forty thousand (15,840,040) gallons of water they will inject during a normal working day will contain sixty thousand and one hundred gallons of pure acid (60,100). The equals two railroad tank cars; each holding a maximum of thirty thousand gallons of acid, by law, per day. Seven hundred and thirty (730) of these cars will be parked on some sort of siding for unloading over the course of a year. But wait; what siding is the copper mine planning to use? Nothing has been mentioned so far about how the loading and unloading of sulfuric acid will be accommodated. Is there a plan to transfer it across Hunt Highway? I hope my attempt at calculating the data satisfies some of the opinions out there.

Walter Skurda

FOIA Exemption 6  


The letter was

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